

Consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Welcome to the European Commission's online public consultation on the "European Pillar of Social Rights".

Are our social rights fit for the 21st century? The Pillar will identify a number of essential principles to address the challenges in the field of employment and social policies.

We want to involve everyone in shaping the European Pillar of Social Rights. We welcome contributions from citizens, social partners, organisations and public authorities, so have your say!

Please submit your contribution below until the end of 2016.

I. Questions for the identification of the respondent

*** Are you replying as an individual or as an organisation?**

- Individual
- Organisation

What is the type of your organisation?

- Business
- EU level organisation
- National level organisation

Your EU level organisation is a(n)

- NGO
- Trade Union
- Employers organisation
- Think tank/academia
- Other

*** Name of your organisation or institution:**

500 character(s) maximum

European Hospital and Healthcare Federation

*** Respondent's first name:**

Pascal

*** Respondent's surname:**

Garel

*** Respondent's email address:**

sg@hope.be

*** Postal address of your organisation or institution:**

500 character(s) maximum

avenue Marnix 30
1000 Bruxelles
Belgique

Country

For individuals: country of residence.

For organisations: country where the organisation is based or country where the organisation's headquarters are.

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Netherlands
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- UK
- EU level
- Other

Register ID number (if you/your organisation is registered in the Transparency register):

If you would like to register, please refer to the following webpage to see how to proceed : <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/info/homePage.do>

*** Your reply:**

- Can be published with your personal information** (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Can be published in an anonymous way** (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Cannot be published - keep it confidential** (The contribution will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

II. Questions for the consultation

The Commission invites all interested parties to reply to the questions set out in the questionnaire below, together with any additional comments, by 31 December 2016. (*See also [Commission communication "Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights", COM\(2016\) 127 final](#)*)

On the social situation and EU social "acquis"

1. What do you see as most pressing employment and social priorities?

2000 character(s) maximum

Making the economic case for health is especially relevant at this moment in the history of European integration. The health gap between Member States is still large. Some Member States have life expectancies that are more than ten years lower than others. Closing this health gap will be both necessary for reducing the income differences in the EU and for demonstrating the success of enlargements.

Discussions on health reforms typically see interventions that promote health and the delivery of hospital and healthcare as costs that need to be contained.

Recent years have seen important advances in our understanding of the link between health and economic development. There is considerable and convincing evidence that significant economic benefits can be achieved by improving health, in particular through hospital and healthcare.

HOPE believes that health, including mental health, is indeed one of the key determinants of economic development and poverty reduction. This has helped pave the way for health to be included in national development strategies and policy frameworks

Human capital contributes to economic growth. Since human capital matters for economic outcomes and since health is an important component of human capital, health matters for economic outcomes. At the same time, economic outcomes also matter for better health.

2. How can we account for different employment and social situations across Europe?

2000 character(s) maximum

As far as health is concerned, history and choices made as well as the impact of the recent crisis explain the differences in the approaches taken at national, regional and local level in the field of health.

3. Is the EU "acquis" up to date and do you see scope for further EU action?

2000 character(s) maximum

Putting public health, i.e. health promotion and prevention, at the centre of EU policy making is a key goal set out in the European treaties. To achieve this it is of particular importance to ensure coherence and transparency in all EU actions relating directly or indirectly to citizen's health.

The European health Strategy has been important in defining clear objectives at the European level within the framework of the European treaties. At the same time, public health challenges are becoming increasingly globalized. The consequences of global warming, environmental pollution as well as drugs, tobacco, alcohol or the epidemic of obesity do not respect national borders.

In this context, HOPE believes that there is a genuine added value to cooperate at EU level to tackle these challenges. Given the size of the challenges we face, it is however crucial for EU action to be focused on those areas and initiatives which add real value.

In this context, public health issues, i.e. health promotion and primary as well as secondary prevention should remain the core activity at EU level. A lot of work still needs to be done in this regard, in particular with new member states. The temptation to enlarge EU action beyond the public health agenda for focus on healthcare issues is a wrong approach, as there is a risk of dispersing efforts and reducing impact where EU action would be most beneficial. The work on mental health is of particular importance.

There are then serious contradictions in the design of some policies; particularly visible in the debates around mental health, around cross-border care, as well as around services of general interest and in particular social services of general interest.

On the future of work and welfare systems

4. What trends would you see as most transformative? [Please select at most three from the list below]

between 1 and 3 choices

- Demographic trends (e.g. ageing, migration)
- Changes in family structures
- New skills requirements
- Technological change
- Increasing global competition
- Participation of women in the labour market
- New ways of work
- Inequalities
- Other

5. What would be the main risks and opportunities linked to such trends?

2000 character(s) maximum

6. Are there policies, institutions or firm practices – existing or emerging – which you would recommend as references?

2000 character(s) maximum

HOPE along with other stakeholders is committed to be a partner in the implementation and the monitoring of the Health Strategy. Good achievements have been made in this field by hospitals, in particular in their educational and monitoring role. HOPE has already produced evidence on studies and projects on the field. Through different networks at the European, national, regional and local levels, hospitals and healthcare services, aware of the fact that curative care is not the only way to health, are engaged in activities crossing boundaries. Some of those are well known: Health Promoting Hospitals, Smoke Free Hospitals, Migrants Friendly Hospitals; some others are less known but are as efficient in promoting good health.

On the European Pillar of Social Rights

7. Do you agree with the approach outlined here for the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Please specify:

2000 character(s) maximum

8. Do you agree with the scope of the Pillar, domains and principles proposed here? (If you wish to provide detailed comments on any of the 20 domains, please see the section "Detailed comments by domain" below)

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
1. Skills, education and life-long learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Flexible and secure labour contracts	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Secure professional transitions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Active support for employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Gender equality and work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Equal opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Conditions of employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Health and safety at work	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Integrated social benefits and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Health care and sickness benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Unemployment benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Minimum income	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Disability benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Long-term care	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Access to essential services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Are there aspects which are not adequately expressed or covered so far?

2000 character(s) maximum

9. What domains and principles would be most important as part of a renewed convergence for the euro area? (Please select maximum 5)

between 1 and 5 choices

- 1. Skills, education and life-long learning
- 2. Flexible and secure labour contracts
- 3. Secure professional transitions
- 4. Active support for employment
- 5. Gender equality and work-life balance
- 6. Equal opportunities
- 7. Conditions of employment
- 8. Wages
- 9. Health and safety at work
- 10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- 11. Integrated social benefits and services
- 12. Health care and sickness benefits
- 13. Pensions
- 14. Unemployment benefits
- 15. Minimum income
- 16. Disability benefits
- 17. Long-term care
- 18. Childcare
- 19. Housing
- 20. Access to essential services

Comments:

2000 character(s) maximum

10. How should these be expressed and made operational? In particular, do you see the scope and added value of minimum standards or reference benchmarks in certain areas and if so, which ones?

2000 character(s) maximum

Detailed comments by domain

If you wish to provide detailed comments on any of the domains, please select one or more from the list below and fill the table(s) and comment box(es) underneath. *(A detailed description of the domains and principles is available in the [Annex "A European Pillar of Social Rights - Preliminary Outline"](#) to the [Commission communication "Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights"](#), COM(2016) 127 final).*

- 1. Skills, education and life-long learning
- 2. Flexible and secure labour contracts
- 3. Secure professional transitions
- 4. Active support for employment
- 5. Gender equality and work-life balance
- 6. Equal opportunities
- 7. Conditions of employment
- 8. Wages
- 9. Health and safety at work
- 10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
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- 14. Unemployment benefits
- 15. Minimum income
- 16. Disability benefits
- 17. Long-term care
- 18. Childcare
- 19. Housing
- 20. Access to essential services

Contact

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